CONTRACTIONS USED IN TERMINAL FORECASTS

NOTE: Some of the expressions -- short words, in common English, for which there are no ICAO contractions -- are completely spelled out, e.g., "AND" and "WIND". "TO" and "NIL" are both listed in the ICAO contraction manual. Both are common words in English.

AAx Code used in the WMO abbreviated heading to indicate an amended forecast, where x is the letter A through X (see Section 7.1). **NOTE: AAx is not used in the forecast text.**

AFT After

AGL Above ground level

AMD Amended terminal forecast. Used in the forecast text only. **AMD is not used in the WMO abbreviated heading.**

BC Patches

BECMG Becoming. Indicator of a forecast change to prevailing meteorological conditions, occurring at either a regular or irregular rate at an unspecified time within the indicated period of time. The **change** occurs during the indicated period of time and the indicated conditions persist until the next forecast change indicator. **The duration of the change period covered by BECMG, indicated by GGG $_{e}G_{e}$, shall never exceed 2 hours in NWS-prepared terminal forecasts.** Refer to Section 7.2.9.b.

BKN Broken cloud layer (5 to 7 oktas cloud amount). Lowest broken layer is implied to be the ceiling.

BL Blowing

BR Mist

CAVOK Not used in NWS-prepared terminal forecasts. Contraction for "Ceiling and Visibility OK" and pronounced KAV-OH-KAY. Replaces visibility, present weather and cloud data under specified conditions. See Appendix G, Section 1.1, for more specific information.

CB Cumulonimbus cloud

CCCC Generic WMO format code group for a four-letter location identifier. Four-letter location identifiers for specific airports are listed in ICAO document 7910, "Location Indicators".

CCx Code used in the WMO abbreviated heading to indicate a corrected forecast, where x is the letter A through X (see Section 7.1). **CCx is not used in the forecast text.**

CLD Cloud

CLR **Not used in the terminal forecast.** In the METAR code, CLR indicates "clear below 12,000 feet above ground level" and applies to automated observations only.

DR Low drifting

DS	Dust storm
DU	Dust
DZ	Drizzle
FC	Funnel cloud
FEW	Few clouds (> 0 oktas to 2 oktas cloud amount)
FG	Fog
FMGGgg	From the time (UTC) indicated by GGgg. Generic WMO format code group, indicating a significant and rapid (in less than one hour) change to a new set of prevailing conditions. Refer to Section 7.2.9.a.
FT	Feet
FU	Smoke
FZ	Freezing
G	Gust. Defined as rapid fluctuations in wind speed with a variation of 10 knots or more between peaks and lulls.
GR	Hail (diameter of largest hailstone ≥ 1/4 inch)
GS	Small hail and/or snow pellets (diameter of hailstones < 1/4 inch)
HZ	Haze
IC	Ice crystals
KT	Knots
LTD	Limited
MI	Shallow
NIL	No or None or I have nothing to send you
NSC	Contraction for "no significant cloud", which replaces cloud data under specified conditions. See Appendix G, Section 1.2, for more specific information. **Not used in NWS-prepared terminal forecasts.**
NSW	A contraction for "no significant weather". An indication that significant weather conditions, as expressed by Appendix I (WMO Code Table 4678), are forecast to end. Refer to Section 7.2.6.
OVC	Overcast cloud layer (8 oktas cloud amount)
P	Greater than (as in P6SM)
P6SM	Visibility forecast to be greater than 6 statute miles
PE	Ice pellets
PO	Well-developed dust/sand whirls

PR Partial

PROBC_2C_2 Forecaster's assessment of the probability of occurrence of a thunderstorm (and associated precipitation) or precipitation event, along with associated weather elements (wind, visibility, and/or sky condition) whose occurrences are directly related to, and contemporaneous with, the thunderstorm or precipitation event. Only PROB30 or PROB40 are allowed. **PROB30 and PROB40 are not permitted in the first six hours of each new terminal forecast's valid period, including amendments. The period of time covered by a PROB group should generally be six hours or less**, excluding widespread or self-sustaining convective systems. Refer to Section 7.2.9.d.

PY Spray

RA Rain

RRx Code used in the WMO abbreviated heading to indicate a delayed forecast, where x is the letter A through X (see Section 7.1). **RRx is not used in the terminal forecast text.**

SA Sand

SCT Scattered cloud layer (3 to 4 oktas cloud amount)

SG Snow grains

SH Shower

SKC Sky clear. No clouds; zero oktas cloud amount. **The contraction CLR is not used in the terminal forecast.**

SKED Scheduled

SM Statute miles

SN Snow

SQ Squall

SS Sandstorm

TAF Aerodrome forecast code format. The international standard for the TAF code, FM 51-X Ext. TAF, is included in WMO Manual on Codes, WMO No. 306, Volume I.1, Part A.

TEMPO Temporarily. Indicator of temporary fluctuations to forecast meteorological conditions which are expected to last less than 1 hour in each instance and, in the aggregate, to cover less than half of the indicated period. **In general, the period of time covered by a TEMPO group should not exceed 4 hours.** Refer to Section 7.2.9.c.

TS Thunderstorm

UP **Not used in terminal forecasts**. Unknown precipitation (used in METAR code only)

VA Volcanic ash

VC Vicinity - two definitions:

NWS:
An area encompassed between circles with radii of 5 and 10 statute miles, respectively, from the center of the runway complex of an airport. This definition applies to NWS-prepared terminal forecasts.

In NWS terminal forecasts, VC shall only be used in the initial time period, FM and BECMG groups, all of which forecast prevailing conditions, and shall only be used in combination with fog (FG), shower(s) (SH), and thunderstorm(s) (TS).

WMO:(An area encompassed) within 8 kilometers (5 statute miles) of the aerodrome but not at the aerodrome. (Words in parentheses inferred. See Note 1 under WMO Regulation 15.8.10). VC is not used in international terminal forecasts.

VIS Visibility

VRB Variable wind direction. Wind direction is considered variable when it is impossible to forecast a mean wind direction due to its expected variability, e.g., for very light winds (3 knots or less) or during convective activity.

VV Vertical Visibility

Z Indicator letter (an abbreviated symbol for Coordinated Universal Time - UTC) appended to the date-time of forecast origin group.